Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPIC-03 EB-08 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 SAB-02 PA-01 PRS-01 /117 W

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R 062229Z DEC 77 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4811 INFO PANCANAL USSOUTHCOM

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EO 11652: GDS TAGS: ENRG, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN TRANSSHIPMENT FACILITY FOR ALASKAN OIL

REF: (A) PANAMA 7340; (B) PANAMA 7061; (C) PANAMA 6163; (D) PANAMA 5941

DEPARTMENT PASS ELLA HAWKINS, INSURANCE DIV/OPIC

- 1. COM COUNSELOR OBTAINED FOLLOWING INFO FROM DISCUSSIONS DECEMBER 5 WITH MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY SOSA AND HIS DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS, ARQ. JOSE AROSEMENA:
- 2. COMMERCE HAD RECENTLY RULED FAVORABLY ON NORTHVILLE'S PROJECTED ONSHORE TRANSSHIPMENT FACILITY AT PUERTO ARMUELLES, THEREBY OVERCOMING PROBLEM RAISED BY PROVISIONS EXPORT ADM ACT (REF B).
- 3. TELLEPSEN/WALLACE AWARDED CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT BY NORTH-VILLE (REF C), AND THIS EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED SOON BY GOP'S NATIONAL FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (COFINA). CONFIDENTIAL

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- 4. STORAGE TANK AT PUERTO ARMUELLES WILL BE CONSTRUCTED BY CHICAGO BRIDGE & IRON COMPANY.
- 5. DESPITE EMBASSY'S REPORT OF EXXON'S DECISION NOT TO JOIN SOHIO (REF A), GOP REPS STILL CONFIDENT EXXON WILL PARTCIPATE DURING FIRST QUARTER 1978.

6. MINISTER SOSA MENTIONED--AS LONG-TERM VENTURE--GOP STUDYING FEASIBILITY CONSTRUCTION PIPELINE FOR TRANSFER CRUDE OIL FROM PROJECTED PUERTO ARMUELLES STORAGE TANK TO BOCAS DEL TORO ON THE ATLANTIC (REF D).

7. SO FAR, ONLY CHASE MANHATTAN KNOWN TO HAVE MADE SOME FINANCIAL COMMITMENT.

8. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED EXACT DATE OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FAVORABLE RULING. FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON RESIDENT REP, JOHN R. VAUGHN, JR., WHOSE BANK MAY PARTIALLY FINANCE THE SUBJECT VENTURE-PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN THIS. HE REPORTED HE HAD INFORMATION THAT NORTHVILLE HAD IN ITS POSSESSION "LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION" FROM DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FOLLOWING ITS FAVORABLE DECISION.

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